



DRAFT

**Minutes
State Board of Education
May 12, 2016**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler
Vice President
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis
Des Moines

Michael Bearden
Gladbrook

Bettie Bolar
Marshalltown

Diane Crookham-Johnson
Oskaloosa

Angela English
Dyersville

Mike May
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller
Mason City and
Wayne County

Robert Nishimwe
Des Moines

Ryan M. Wise
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Mike May, Brooke Axiotis, Angela English, and Mary Ellen Miller. Iowa Department of Education staff members present were Ryan Wise, David Tilly, Jeff Berger, Nicole Proesch, Cheryl Smith, Barbara Burrows, Carole Richardson, Deb Darge, Erika Cook, Eric St Clair, Linda Carroll, Jeremy Varner, Staci Hupp, Isbelia Arzola, Jim Donoghue, Molly Hammer, Barb Anderson, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were Richard Lee, WHO Radio; Chris Mitchell, ACT; Kristy Latta, Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District; Deron Durflinger, Jen Sigrist, and Lizzy Lyon, Van Meter Community School District; Clemencia Spizzirri, 2015 Iowa Teacher of the Year; M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Sandy Schmitz, Iowa Reading Research Center; Leon Kuehner, Linda Murphy, Gretta Berghammer, Sarah Dougherty, Elizabeth Fritz, Maggie Parks, Meghan Malloy, Ryan Rowley, Roger Henderson, Larry Murphy, and David Law, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education; Senator Herman Quirmbach; Senator Matt McCoy; Colleen Heinz, Iowa State Education Association; Laura Steffensmeier, Attorney General's Office; and D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), welcomed new State Board of Education (Board) member, Bettie Bolar. Current Board members in attendance introduced themselves.

Information was shared on the Duties of the State Board (Iowa Code section 256.7), the Interrelated Roles of the State Board and Department, and the Roles and Responsibilities of the State Board and Local School Boards.

A PowerPoint titled *Our Purpose and Our Role – The Iowa Department of Education* was presented that addressed:

- Our Shared Purpose
- Mission and Vision
- Role of the Department
- Priorities
- Iowa Department of Education Divisions

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, reviewed the work of that division. The bureaus in this area include the Bureau of Career and Technical Education and the Bureau of Community Colleges.

Charlie Edwards commented on the Board's reliance on the Community College Council when recommendations relating to community colleges are brought before the Board.

David Tilly, Deputy Director, Division of Learning and Results, talked about the structure and work of bureaus in that division. The bureaus include the Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, the Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, the Bureau of Educator Quality, the Bureau of School Improvement, and the Bureau of Information and Analysis Services.

There was discussion regarding the Department's efforts with the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, Division of School Finance and Support Services, provided information on the work units in that division. The work units include the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services; the Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation and Transportation Services; the Bureau of Information Technology Services; and the Office of Internal Administrative Services.

There was discussion about whether data are collected on health reasons for absences.

Wise provided an overview of the Division of Policy and Communications. The work teams in this division include the Bureau of Communications and Information Services, policy, teacher leadership, and Iowa Learning Online.

Ryan commented on the Department and Board's working relationship that allows the Board to have its independence yet support the needs in each of these kinds of programmatic areas.

Edwards talked about the Board's priorities, authority, and responsibility.

Wise shared additional information about the Board's priorities, master calendar, and operating guidelines.

Nicole Proesch, Legal Counsel, Office of the Director, presented a PowerPoint titled *Operating Procedures State Board of Education* that addressed the following:

- Iowa Code Section 256.3
- Iowa Code Chapters 21 and 22
- Board Member Elections
- Roberts Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedures)
- Order of Business
- Four Basic Motions (Main, Subsidiary, Privileged, Incidental)
- How Motions are Presented
- Voting on a Motion

Proesch also presented a PowerPoint titled *The Administrative Rules* that addressed the following:

- Authority, Code, and Rules
- Process – Non-Emergency
- Process – Emergency
- Process – Petition
- Duty to Make Rules

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Ryan Wise called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Wise welcomed new Board member, Bettie Bolar, who shared information about herself. Current Board members introduced themselves.

Wise announced that Governor Branstad has selected Robert Nishimwe of Des Moines as the new student member.

It was moved by Mike May and seconded by Angela English that the May agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mike Knedler nominated Charlie Edwards of Des Moines for president of the Board. Angela English seconded. Edwards had no objection to the nomination.

Mike May made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that nominations cease. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken: Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Charlie Edwards, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, and Mary Ellen Miller.

Edwards was elected president and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mary Ellen Miller nominated Mike Knedler of Council Bluffs for vice president of the Board. Angela English seconded. Knedler had no objection to the nomination.

Mike Bearden made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mike Kneder as vice president. Mike May seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken: Aye: Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Bettie Bolar, Charlie Edwards, Angela English, Mike Knedler, Mike May, and Mary Ellen Miller.

Knedler was elected vice president.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

Ryan Wise attended a joint Council of Chief State School Officers and National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting focused on the transition to ESSA from No Child Left Behind. He had an opportunity to hear United States Department of Education secretary, John King, as well as various members of the House and Senate speak. He also heard Senator Lamar Alexander who was instrumental in the passage of ESSA. Alexander's message was that ESSA is the largest devolution of power from the federal government to states in the last 25 years.

Wise reported that all Iowa school districts now have an approved Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) plan for next year. In addition, a statewide TLC event was held on April 12 where over 1,000 individuals participated and 175 school districts were represented. Wise was recently interviewed by a television news crew from Oklahoma demonstrating that TLC is making waves nationally.

Wise shared comments about the Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit that was held on April 19. It continues to be a priority of the Department to break down silos and barriers between education, workforce, and economic development. Iowa's high school graduation rate is above 90 percent, which is the highest in the nation.

Legislative Update

Ryan Wise talked about the Education Appropriations Bill (Senate File 2323). One item in the bill is a one-year delay on the requirement for the intensive summer literacy program, and a one-year delay on third grade retention, which pushes the implementation of these provisions to the summer of 2018.

There's also a provision in Senate File 2323 related to the Board's rules on assessment. In one section of the bill, it moves the implementation date of the new assessment from July 1, 2017, to July 1, 2018. In another section of the bill, it suspends the Board's rules on assessment. Wise explained that the suspension limits the ability of the Department to move forward with the rules that were created. Discussion occurred on how Board members could approach the Governor expressing their support of a line item veto.

There was additional discussion regarding the Administrative Rules Review Committee, how delaying the rules will affect school districts, legislative action in suggesting the suspension, other education associations support of a veto, and review of the current assessment system to ensure compliance.

Wise also reported that the Department's General Administration Fund was cut by \$250,000. The Department is working to ensure that quality support will still be provided to school districts. This cut could affect the liaison position that previously supported the Board.

Consent Agenda

Mike Bearden made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

In re Expulsion of Student A. (St. Ansgar Community School District)

Nicole Proesch presented *In re Expulsion of Student A. (St. Ansgar Community School District)*. Student A was a freshman at St. Ansgar High School at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Student A had a number of disciplinary issues while attending school in the district. On September 22, 2015, during and after a volleyball game, Student A was involved in two separate incidents of student-on-student harassment. These two incidents were caught on surveillance and brought to the attention of the administration. After reviewing Student A's disciplinary history and these two incidents, the administration recommended to expel the minor child, Student A, for a period until the end of the 2015-2016 academic school year, to not allow Student A on school premises without permission, and requiring Student A to obtain counseling before re-admittance. Student A and several other students testified at the local hearing. Student A testified that they were horsing around and if someone would have told him to stop he would have. The local board approved the administration's recommendation and voted to expel Student A as stated.

Student A and his parents appealed. The Appellants argued that it was a due process violation to look at Student A's prior disciplinary record and the district should have given Student A a 504 plan. However, the record shows Student A was given appropriate due process and that a 504 plan, the parents had requested, was for academics and not for behavior.

The decision of a local board to suspend or expel a student is clearly an issue of discretion. Thus, it was reviewed for reasonableness. Student A had been given progressive discipline for similar conduct in the past. Given his disciplinary record, it could not be determined that the local board acted unreasonably in making its decision to expel Student A.

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed decision.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision affirming the decision of the St. Ansgar Board to expel Student A.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

In re Dissolution Appointments (Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District)

Nicole Proesch presented *In re Dissolution Appointments (Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District)*. On May 21, 2015, the Board of Directors for the Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District received a Petition and Proposal for Dissolution of the District in which the Appellant was listed as a possible individual who could serve on a dissolution commission. On August 20, 2015, the local board moved to appoint members of the community to a dissolution commission as required under Iowa Code section 275.21. The Appellant was not chosen. On September 17, 2015, the local board moved to make changes to the commission due to a recent election. The Appellant was not appointed. The Appellant appeals these decisions on the basis that the local board abused its discretion in appointing members to the commission by failing to appoint a member that represents individuals on the free and reduced lunch status.

The District filed two Motions to Dismiss. The first motion was for improper filing of the appeal via email and not via US Mail or facsimile by the 30-day statutory deadline. The second motion was on the basis that the Appellant is not an aggrieved party under the statute.

Substantial compliance was found with the statutory filing requirements since the appeal was filed via email with the Department by the deadline; thus, the first Motion to Dismiss was denied. On the second Motion to Dismiss, it was found that the Appellant is not an aggrieved party under the statute; thus, the Motion was granted.

Nonetheless, the merits of the underlying appeal for purposes of further review was reviewed. The proper standard of review of a decision of the local school board that involves discretion is for an abuse of discretion. Thus, that standard was applied here. The local board reviewed the requirements of Iowa Code section 275.51 when it made its appointments to the dissolution commission. On its face, the statute does not require that the local board appoint members from all socioeconomic groups, but from various socioeconomic groups. Additionally, the local board did include individuals that met all of the other statutory requirements. Thus, there was no evidence that the local board abused its discretion and acted unreasonably.

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed decision dismissing the appeal on the basis that the Appellant was not an aggrieved party and affirming the decisions of the local board to appoint members of a dissolution commission.

Motion: Mary Ellen Miller made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board approve the proposed decision dismissing the appeal on the basis that the Appellant is not an aggrieved party and affirming the decisions of the local board to appoint members of a dissolution commission.

There was a question regarding the number of students in the Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District that are free and reduced price lunch status, and how districts would comply with the statutory requirement.

Charlie Edwards announced Mike Bearden recused himself from this discussion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2017

Barbara Burrows, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, and Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, presented the Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report. Burrows indicated that the fiscal year 2017 information contained in the report is a preliminary estimate.

St Clair reviewed the budget process, purpose, and content of the report. The report is a means for community colleges to set their property tax levies for the upcoming year.

Mike Knedler said this report was presented to the Community College Council where Linda Allen, President, Hawkeye Community College, shared the community college perspective on the process.

Motion: Mike Knedler made a motion and Mary Ellen Miller seconded that the State Board approve the community colleges certified budgets as provided.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Competency-based Education Collaborative Update

David Tilly introduced Sandra Dop, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, who provided an update on the progress of the Competency-based Education (CBE) Collaborative. The Iowa CBE Collaborative consists of nine districts. There were previously ten districts; however, the East Union Community School District is no longer part of the collaborative.

Dop talked about the collaborative processes, collaborative outcomes, state outcomes, the CBE framework, the framework for transformation to a CBE system, and the framework peer review process.

Dop introduced the following representatives from the Van Meter Community School District, which is one of the schools in the CBE Collaborative: Deron Durlinger, superintendent, Jen Sigrist, director of personalized learning and innovation, and Lizzy Lyon, student.

Van Meter representatives talked about their progress with CBE in their district and a student's perspective was shared.

There was discussion about whether there have been challenges with transferring credits to higher education institutions, the plan to scale CBE to a statewide level, the number of districts that have expressed an interest in CBE, why the East Union Community School District opted out of the program, whether integration is taking place in their classrooms, how achievement of a competency is assessed, and the importance of making other Iowa school districts aware of Van Meter's success.

Iowa Teacher of the Year (2015) End-of-Year Report

Isbelia Arzola, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, shared information about the teacher of the year program. She introduced the 2015 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Clemencia Spizzirri.

Spizzirri talked about her experience, what she has learned, and how much she has grown while serving as Iowa's ambassador to education. Specifically, she shared information about her platform and goal, personal impact, experiences and insight, and a listening tour that was held around the state.

Iowa Alliance for Arts Education Presentation

Charlie Edwards indicated that the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education presentation would be an opportunity for the Board to learn more about the issue of fine arts standards. The Board sets standards for other discipline areas as well. Ryan Wise said the Department is working on a process around standards adoption.

Leon Kuehner, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education (IAAE), reported that the IAAE is an umbrella organization of all of the arts education agencies in the state. He described the work of the IAAE.

Members of the Fine Arts Standards writing team introduced themselves: Elizabeth Fritz, instrumental music; Sarah Dougherty, Turnaround Arts; Linda Murphy, general music; Maggie Parks, visual arts; Gretta Berghammer, drama-theater; and Roger Henderson, vocal music. Senator Herman Quirmbach and Senator Matt McCoy were also introduced.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed the following:

- Iowa Core/Fine Arts Timeline
- Arts as a “Core” or “Academic” Subject
- Arts as Part of a Well-Rounded Education
- What Does ESSA Mean for Arts Education?
- State of the States
- University Constructs
- National Core Arts Standards (NCAS)
- NCAS Since 2014
- Crosswalk Between Universal Constructs and the NCAS
- Why Add Fine Arts to the Iowa Education Standards?

Edwards said the Board would take the information presented under advisement and will be discussing next steps.

Now is the Time Mental Health Grant

Sarah Brown, Chief, Barb Anderson and Molly Hammer, Consultants, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, presented information on Now is the Time Mental Health Grant. The Department received a five-year federal grant in October 2014 to study and improve mental health services in schools. The intent of the grant is to: 1) train school personnel, emergency first responders, and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental illness in youth, and 2) enhance coordination and integration of mental, emotional, and behavioral health services.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- The Case for a Learning Supports Approach
- Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrator and School Climate Transformation Grants
- Why is This Important?
- Project AWARE Iowa Goals and Components
- Key Partners
- Number of Youth Referred by a First Aider to Mental Health or Other Services

There was discussion regarding what will happen once the grant expires, whether Department staff are working with health care providers in dealing with these issues, lack of appropriate facilities, and the importance of sharing the grant data with other school districts.

State Board Retreat Planning

The agenda and format of the annual Board retreat were discussed. Board members shared items they would like to be addressed.

Board Reports

Mike May reported that Governor Branstad and Linda Fandel were in Spencer collecting information and feedback on TLC and how it is working in that district. He also met with a Michigan State University student who was researching policymaking in state boards.

Angela English spoke at a campaign for grade level reading event in Dyersville.

Mary Ellen Miller attended the Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit.

Ryan Wise spoke at a literacy event sponsored by the United Way of Central Iowa.

Mike Knedler attended the Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit, met with a Michigan State University student who was researching policymaking in state boards, and attended a Social Studies Task Force meeting.

Bettie Bolar expressed excitement for serving on the Board.

Mike Bearden attended the Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit, and has been involved in the Marshalltown superintendent search. He has a co-worker that is involved in Project Lead the Way and another co-worker that attended a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) event.

Brooke Axiotis attended the NASBE legislative conference and a meeting to plan the NASBE annual meeting. She reported that NASBE presents awards at the annual conference and she plans to nominate Rosie Hussey for the Distinguished Service Award. She also attended the Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
President

Ryan M. Wise
Director